

What is Claimed:

1 1. A container system for removing a needle portion from a needle
2 holder of a needle system, said container system comprising:

3 a receptacle defining an opening;

4 a lid configured to cover said receptacle opening, said lid defining a lid
5 aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a first needle system having a
6 first configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of the first needle
7 system from the needle holder of the first needle system; and

8 an adapter configured for engagement in said lid aperture, said adapter
9 defining an adapter aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a second
10 needle system having a second configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle
11 portion of the second needle system from the needle holder of the second needle system,

12 wherein one of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture is at least
13 partially defined by converging wall portions positioned to contact a release mechanism of
14 the needle holder of the respective needle system to expand an opening defined in the
15 needle holder to release the needle portion from the needle holder, and

16 wherein the other of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture is at least
17 partially defined by a rectangular portion positioned to contact a substantially rectangular
18 portion of the needle holder of the other respective needle system thereby facilitating
19 rotation and release of the needle portion from the needle holder.

1 2. The container system of claim 1 wherein said engagement of said
2 adapter in said lid aperture resists rotation of said adapter with respect to said lid.

1 3. The container system of claim 1 wherein said lid aperture is
2 substantially funnel-shaped.

1 4. The container system of claim 3, said adapter having an outer
2 surface configured to be received in said substantially funnel-shaped lid aperture.

1 5. The container system of claim 1 wherein said adapter aperture is
2 substantially rectangular-shaped.

1 6. The container system of claim 1 wherein said lid includes a
2 depression adjacent said lid aperture, and said adapter includes a detent configured to
3 extend into said depression, wherein said detent is configured to facilitate said
4 engagement between said adapter and said lid aperture.

1 7. The container system of claim 6 wherein said lid includes two or more
2 depressions adjacent said lid aperture, and said detent is configured to extend into one of
3 said depressions to facilitate said engagement.

1 8. The container system of claim 7 wherein said adapter includes two or
2 more of detents, each of said detents being configured to extend into one of said
3 depressions to facilitate said engagement.

1 9. The container system of claim 1 wherein said adapter includes at
2 least one flange positioned to engage said lid to resist removal of said adapter from said
3 lid.

1 10. The container system of claim 9 wherein said flange engages a
2 lower edge of said lid adjacent said lid aperture to resist said removal of said adapter
3 from said lid.

1 11. The container system of claim 9 wherein said adapter includes at
2 least two flanges positioned to engage said lid to resist removal of said adapter from said
3 lid.

1 12. A container system for removing a needle portion from a needle
2 holder of a needle system, said container system comprising:

3 means for containing a needle portion, said containing means defining a
4 container aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a first needle
5 system having a first configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of
6 the first needle system from the needle holder of the first needle system; and

7 means for adapting said container aperture of said containing means to
8 receive a second needle system having a second configuration, said adapting means
9 being configured for engagement at said container aperture of said containing means;
10 and said adapting means defining an adapter aperture having a shape configured to
11 contact a surface of the second needle system having the second configuration, thereby
12 facilitating removal of the needle portion of the second needle system from the needle
13 holder of the second needle system,

14 wherein one of said container aperture and said adapter aperture is at
15 least partially defined by converging wall portions positioned to contact a release
16 mechanism of the needle holder of the respective needle system to expand an opening
17 defined in the needle holder to release the needle portion from the needle holder, and

18 wherein the other of said container aperture and said adapter aperture is
19 at least partially defined by a rectangular portion positioned to contact a substantially
20 rectangular portion of the needle holder of the other respective needle system thereby
21 facilitating rotation and release of the needle portion from the needle holder.

1 13. The container system of claim 12, said containing means comprising
2 a receptacle defining an opening and a lid configured to cover said receptacle opening.

1 14. The container system of claim 13, said container aperture of said
2 containing means being defined in said lid.

1 15. A container system for removing a needle portion from a needle
2 holder of a needle system, said container system comprising:

3 a lid defining a lid aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface
4 of a first needle system having a first configuration; and

5 an adapter configured for engagement in said lid aperture, said adapter
6 defining an adapter aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a second
7 needle system having a second configuration,

8 wherein one of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture is at least
9 partially defined by converging wall portions positioned to contact the needle holder of
10 the respective needle system and to release the needle portion from the needle holder,
11 and

12 wherein the other of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture is at least
13 partially defined by wall portions positioned to contact the needle holder of the other
14 respective needle system for rotation and release of the needle portion from the needle
15 holder.